



Department of  
Toxic Substances  
Control

*The Mission of the  
Department of  
Toxic Substances  
Control is to  
provide the highest  
level of safety, and  
to protect public  
health and the  
environment from  
toxic harm.*



State of California



California  
Environmental  
Protection Agency

Fact Sheet, October 2010

## Proposed George Brown Jr. Elementary School Cleanup Plan Available For Review

A draft plan for an area of contaminated soil at the proposed George Brown Jr. (formerly Wilson II) Elementary School site (Site) is available for public review and comment. The plan, called a draft Removal Action Workplan, or RAW, was submitted by the San Bernardino City Unified School District (SBCUSD) for review and approval by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). The Site which is located in the City of San Bernardino east of North 'G' Street, south of West 26th Street, west of North 'F' Street, includes North Berkeley Avenue, and includes the residential lots on the south side of West 25th Street. A map of the Site is provided on page 4 of this fact sheet.

The approximately 8.3 acre proposed school site formerly consisted of single family residences and vacant lots. The residential structures have been demolished at the Site. During environmental investigations, lead and organochlorine pesticides (OCPs) were detected in the soil above acceptable levels. Lead-based paint and historical application of insecticides for termites are possible sources for the identified lead and pesticide contamination around residential properties at the Site. The draft RAW describes a plan to cleanup the proposed school Site.

### **This Fact Sheet provides a brief summary of:**

- Why Cleanup and Capping is Necessary
- Proposed Cleanup Options
- California Environmental Quality Act
- Next Steps
- Where to Find the Documents
- Who to Contact for More Information

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD October 1, 2010 to November 1, 2010**

The public comment period for the draft RAW begins on October 1, 2010 and ends November 1, 2010. DTSC will make a final decision after all public comments have been reviewed and considered. The draft RAW and other related project documents for this project can be viewed at the information repositories listed on page 3 of this fact sheet. Written and e-mailed comments must be postmarked by **November 1, 2010** and sent to:

Jeanne Matsumoto, Public Participation Specialist  
5796 Corporate Avenue, Cypress, CA 90630  
[jmatsumo@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:jmatsumo@dtsc.ca.gov)

Si desea información en español, comuníquese con Juan Osornio al (714) 484-5498.



DTSC is a department within the California Environmental Protection Agency. DTSC oversees soil and groundwater investigations at proposed new or expanding school sites, and evaluates properties for potentially hazardous materials or contamination that may pose a risk to school children, the staff, or faculty. If contamination is found, DTSC oversees the cleanup of the property in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations.

### **Why Cleanup and Capping is Necessary**

In order to protect future students and staff of the new school, the DTSC recommended that the school district prepare a cleanup plan prior to construction of the new school. The proposed plan describes: 1) the excavation and lawful offsite disposal of contaminated soil, 2) onsite movement and backfilling of other soil classified as non-hazardous, and 3) capping or covering of areas that will require periodic monitoring. The monitoring will be conducted on an annual basis in connection with what is known as a Land Use Covenant (LUC). The LUC will be placed on the areas of property that require capping, and any activities that may disturb the cap will be prohibited without prior DTSC approval. If approved, the DTSC will oversee the implementation of the RAW and ensure that it is performed in a manner that does not harm people or the environment.

### **Proposed Cleanup Options**

The following cleanup alternatives were considered for the contamination at the Site:

Alternative 1 – No Action

Alternative 2 – Treatment

Alternative 3 – Excavation and Offsite Disposal

Alternative 4 – Institutional Controls, Offsite Disposal and Onsite Containment (Capping)

Based on careful analysis of these alternatives, Alternative 4 - Institutional Controls, Offsite Disposal and Onsite Containment (Capping), is recommended because it protects human health and the environment, is permanent, and is most cost effective.

### **Proposed Plan**

If Alternative 4 is selected, contaminated soils

will be excavated from selected locations at the Site. As soil is excavated, it will be temporarily stored in staging areas, sampled, and segregated prior to being loaded into transportation trucks. Up to 120 truckloads (2,742 cubic yards) of contaminated soil may be transported to a State approved disposal facility. Up to 10,865 tons of Non-hazardous waste soil will remain on site to be used as backfill. A cap consisting of engineered fill will then be installed to contain the remaining contaminated soils located two feet or more below the surface of the ground.

DTSC will oversee monitoring activities and will also execute a LUC to ensure the cap remains in place in the future. Monitoring and inspections will be required to ensure land use restrictions are followed.

### **Safety & Dust Control during Cleanup**

The following actions will be used during the cleanup to minimize dust and ensure public safety:

- Monitoring the air at the Site to ensure the amount of dust stays at safe levels
- Installing temporary fencing with windscreens for security and dust control
- Spraying of work areas with clean water to control dust
- Securing trucks with covers before they leave the Site
- Brushing truck tires entering and exiting the Site to remove soil and debris
- Driving all vehicles at slow speeds while on the property and streets

### **Proposed Transportation Route for Trucks**

If approved, any contaminated soil classified as hazardous waste will be lawfully transported to a state licensed disposal facility. Onsite clean soil will be used as the fill for the containment cap. If needed, clean import soil will be transported to the Site. The trucks will enter the Site from North G Street exit back to North G Street heading south to West Highland Avenue. Trucks will proceed west to the 215 freeway.

## California Environmental Quality Act

In compliance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), DTSC has prepared a draft Notice of Exemption (NOE) for this project. The NOE states that the proposed cleanup will not have a significant negative effect on human health or the environment. The cleanup process will be a relatively short duration, and controlled in a way in which the contaminated soils should not affect the general public. Traffic will be controlled leaving the Site to ensure neighbors have access to the streets surrounding the site. The remaining and relocated impacted soils will be capped with engineered fill.

## Next Steps

At the end of the public comment period, DTSC will review and consider all public comments received and make any necessary revisions to the draft RAW prior to final approval. Also, a Response to Comments document will be mailed to everyone who submits a comment and provides their name and address. After DTSC approves the RAW for implementation, the soil excavation, offsite disposal, onsite movement of soil for grading purposes, and cap installation are expected to take place between November, 2010 and March 2011. Also during this time, the LUC will be executed and an Operation and Maintenance Plan will be implemented.

## Where to Find the Documents

The draft RAW and other related documents for the proposed George Brown Jr. Elementary School are available for review at the following locations:

Norman F. Feldheim Central Library  
Reference Desk  
555 W. 5th Street  
San Bernardino, CA 92410  
Phone: (909) 381-8221

Department of Toxic Substances Control  
Regional Records Office  
5796 Corporate Avenue  
Cypress, CA 90630  
Contact: Julie Johnson (714) 484-5337  
Hours: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday - Thursday  
A computer is available in the DTSC file room for your use.

Site documents are also available for your review at: [www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov)

## Who to Contact for More Information

If you have any questions about the project or cleanup activities, please contact:

Johnson Abraham  
DTSC Project Manager  
5796 Corporate Avenue  
Cypress, CA. 90630  
Phone: (714) 484-5476  
[jabraham@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:jabraham@dtsc.ca.gov)

Jeanne Matsumoto  
Public Participation Specialist  
5796 Corporate Avenue  
Cypress, CA. 90630  
Phone: (866) 495-5651, press 4, then press 6  
[jmatsumo@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:jmatsumo@dtsc.ca.gov)

## Media Inquiries:

Jeanne Garcia  
DTSC Public Information Officer  
(818) 717-6573  
[jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov)

## Notice to Hearing-Impaired Individuals

Notice to Hearing-Impaired Individuals. You can obtain additional information about the site by using the California State Relay Service at 1 (888) 877-5378 (TDD). Ask them to contact Jeanne Matsumoto at (714) 484-5338 regarding the project.

